

On China: Growth Prospects, Domestic Politics and Geostrategy in the 21st Century

Dwight H Perkins

Harvard University

ISIS

Chulalongkorn University

January 29, 2020

The steady progress of economic reform followed by reversal after 2018

- From 1978 to 2018 China's main focus was on economic reform and achieving rapid growth in GDP
- 1980s—debate over how far to go is dismantling the Soviet type centrally planned economic system
- 1990s commitment to a “socialist market economy”, creation of the legal framework for foreign direct investment, joining WTO, and major effort to curtail waste in state owned enterprises
- 2000-2018 continued effort at reform of a market system
- 2018 on Reversal of economic policies with emphasis now on building strong state owned enterprises as the leaders of the economy. Strengthening the role of the Party Committees in management including in management of private sector enterprises.

Little political reform but liberal approach to freedom of speech and availability of publications from abroad (1978-2018)

- Increasing liberalization of rules governing what could be taught in universities, programs on television, etc.
- Transformation of the teaching of economics from Marxist political economy to modern micro and macroeconomics
- After 2018, return of tight controls over what could be taught, prohibition of use of foreign te

An active security policy after decades of standing back from major involvement in international issues including military security issues

- Deng Xiaoping approach of staying out of involvement in international issues particularly in the security area.
- Xi Jinping introduction of an active international role including in the security area partly related to the belt and road initiative, the South China Sea, etc.